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49
KITCHEN AND BATH
PRODUCT PICKS



THE GREAT TOH GIVEAWAY

- [idea file](#)

- upgrades

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- GIVEAWAY** →
- 82**
- HOW TO REFRESH YOUR BATH

44

DATE
TIME
LOG
FOR
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on the cover

House 

at \$279,900 (pmswv)
45) 49 28 hp product pickup
for your tractor and back
in at 32 stylish budget
both close
46) The second big is
second time used
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These data were used to estimate the total number of individuals that were sampled.

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65

TEAM TV

Landscape contractor Roger Cook and the rest of the TOHTV crew talk tools. Find out which top five each pro relies on and what makes them handy on the job.



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letter { from This Old House }

Here's how we can save you thousands

"I got a quote from a contractor for the outdoor shower," my friend John told me. "It was one grand!" He shook his head as we sat there eating a cheap deli lunch. He said he thought that was a crazy price, especially when he could do it himself. All he needed was to buy a new sliding glass-paned door to use.

I knew where he was going with this.

"The new one was only a hundred bucks," he said, "the materials were a thousand dollars. So the way I see it, I came out forty-four hundred bucks ahead."

Yep, I knew that calculation well. Once justified a table-saw purchase to build a set of Adirondack chairs, but because you can get a pair of chairs for one-quarter the price of the table saw, I didn't come out anywhere near as far ahead as John.

You're familiar with this arithmetic too, I bet, yes?

No doubt, and that's why this issue, The Great TOH Giveaway issue, is officially my favorite all year. I love it because it gives readers like you a chance to assert the typical home-owning equation of house-quake-expenditure.

In the following pages, you'll see opportunities for chances to win some \$178,000 worth of prizes provided by manufacturers and retailers whose products we've featured this month. For example, our friends at Kohler have donated three different sorts of bathroom products—one Victorian in style, one Craftsman, and one Art Deco—for a grand total of \$26,655 in prizes. They've added up a granite and a faucet and kitchen sink, too. Fleck, we could call it the Kitchen Sink issue, but that'd overlook the \$5,000 in cabinets we got from Quailry Cabinets, the \$5,800 in flooring from Lumber Liquidators, the KitchenAid appliances worth a total of \$7,097, the Trane whole-house HVAC system, with all the bells and whistles, valued at \$12,500, and—we're moving outside now— Andersen's \$5,800 worth of windows and doors, and Jensen Hards' \$18,800 worth of fiber-cement siding.

You'll find a lot more than that—there's something to win on nearly every page—including the tools you'd need to install any of it: Stanley and its sister companies, DeWalt, Porter-Cable, and Bosch, have donated \$5,000 worth of tools to outfit one woman's workshop.

Imagine if my buddy John had nipped all these tools before his outdoor shower project. With his math, that'd be enough to build a whole house and still come out ahead.

Scott Oatman
SCOTT OATMAN, EDITOR
scott@thisoldhouse.com



DIY math

The writer freshwater up the Adirondack chair's built himself to "save" money—making a table saw he bought for \$400.

PS: I nearly forgot the biggest prize of all: a whole house! Preservation North Carolina has donated a house in the city of Goldsboro. See This Old House, on page 116, for the details for this prize in The Great TOH Giveaway. Check it out—it's great, indeed.

readermail

That **personal search** for the perfect remodeling product brings us more e-mails than almost any other topic, and our June roundup of high- and bargain-end reproduction items hit the sweet spot with many readers. Others shared comments and solid advice in response to a couple of May's articles, as well as a graceful and thrifty adaptation of April's Weekend Remodel.

Reproduction products

"Perched Perfect at Any Price" makes this issue a keeper. What a great idea for making the snowflake hexagon tile pattern! I vote for making this topic a regular feature.

—MARTIN WISER BULLAY, COLO.

I really like the format of this article. The "upshot or not?" snippet is spot on and obviously took a lot of work and research, something I don't have time to do. Thanks.

—WILLIAM GARNY RICHMOND, VA.

The editors reply: We agree the army ants will search the effort, and you will likely see more pack features in future issues. (Anywho, send us a go to doan@theownermagazine.com.)

Tips for growing hydrangeas

Thanks for the great article on hydrangeas and how to care for them. We have two very large speculations in

our front yard, and everyone always comments on how beautiful they are. Your article helped me identify which species we have and how to help them look even better.

—PATRICIA BASHOVIC CLEVELAND

Outdoor upgrades

I enjoyed your patio design ideas ("Building Blocks for a Perfect Patio," May), however, I would remind readers to check for buried utilities before digging. There is

usually one service that marks all utilities at no charge to the homeowner. Also, it is desirable to avoid building a solid surface over buried utilities in case future access is required. I take a picture of marked utilities for reference.

—BOB LEBERT CHAPEL HILL, NC.

Conventions

In the Styling credit for May's Paint Ideas, the full name of a paint have been listed twice.



reader project of the month



Repurposed trellis

HALLIE KILGUS, OCEANOGRAPHY

Our Weekend Remodel project "Build an Arched Bench" (April) or find it at theownermagazine.com/supersize inspired me to refurbish a vine trellis I built some years ago. My trellis frame was very similar to your plan's dimensions. Your directions allowed me to build the bench framework within my old trellis with no trouble at all. My vine now has a new trellis (foreground), and we have a beautiful new focal point in our yard.

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Or go to [thisoldhouse.com/win](#)

1

On your mark
Download the free Microsoft Tag Reader application from gettag.mobi or go to the iTunes app store

2

Get set
Open the Tag
Reader and look
for the tags placed
throughout this
issue of TQW.
Here's a sample

3

Scan a tag
Hold your smartphone's camera over a tag, and—poof!—you'll be taken to one of The Great TDH Giveaway entry pages.

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to win**
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for a chance to
win the prizes
you want. Scan
other tags for
other prizes.

Scan the tags on these pages (up to once a day for the seven-week duration of the sweepstakes) to enter for your chance to win featured prizes.

Page 34
+ Delta Faucet Lakota Lavatory
with TouchOn Technology
(MSRP: \$425)

+ Kenmore Elite front load steam washer and gas or electric steam dryer (MSRP \$2,999 or \$3,499)

• Filleson [15] uses off-BLZ Premium Primer (AR-5-B-00)

+ Four (4) vouchers for Stine Landscaping, Inc. (MTV \$800 each, \$3,200 combined)

Page 42
+ Eldorado Fireplace Surround
from Eldorado Stone (MSRP
\$2,490)

Page 45
+ Wayfair.com e-shopping
agent (ARV \$2,500)

• **Myristic** (black) label present in all decks (APV not to use)

Page 52
+ Six (6) sets of Amerock
Beaded Collection books

+ Williams-Sonoma Kitchen Aid (500W) \$129.99

+ The Outdoor GearWorks Company's Inspiration

gel fuel (A/CV \$1000)
+ Five (5) 1/4" Tone Luggage
ventilation fans (MSRP \$2
each) \$1,000, *contingent on*

• \$1000 by Casadino
voucher for quartz
countertops (ATV \$1,100)

- + Thos. Moser Meridian Clinic (MSP: \$2,175)
- + Victoria + Albert Theatre (MSP: \$5,000)

• Three (3) suites of Kohler
bath fixtures and fittings
Nine-piece Victorian-style
bath package (ARV: \$54,000)
12-piece Craftsman-style bat
h package (ARV: \$54,521) and
18-piece Art Deco-style bath
package (ARV: \$41,889) (ARV
\$26,000 each)

Page 52
+ Antisocial behaviors and drug
(JAH, 95 000)

Page E7

tools from Stanley, DeWalt, Bosch, and Porter Cable (ATW \$15.00 combined)

+ Free (U) Lucite Toolbox Car
Sells (ARW) \$55 each/\$295
combined)

• System DC25 Multi-floor vacuums (Model: S500)

Page 90
+ Points: 900 08/26
condensing gas turbine unit

• Fluvent in floor heating system with programmable thermostat (AHR) - 43,670

Page 171
+ Kottler 20 Kilowatt generator

• **Three(3) TraxBrewer**
compost brewers by East Cow
Organics (MSRP=\$129 each,
\$387 combined)

• Three-1/2 Earthway 245
Spray Pro push sprayers.
(MSRP \$349 each, \$1,047
combined)

Page 304 (top)
= John Deere G100 lawn track
(part# SL690)

Page 304 (bottom)
+ Fitman (10) RockAuto gift
certificates (ATTC) \$100 each,
to 100.

Page 505
+ Three out of groups of high
achievers were identified with

clean effects of air-handling
all-claims, air-handling, and
Comfort Link II high-efficiency
programmable thermostat

Page 107
+ Malware (STC) 64 integrated circuit

- **Farnas Inc.** (EY7550L-R25) impact driver (MHP® 3-412)
- **Bosch** 2500B-CL impact

- Metablen 3.5 D 18 LT Impact driver kit (MSRP \$379)
- Hitachi N1600L Impact driver (MSRP \$169)

Page 105
+ The historic Molly Smith
Thompson's House on

See official rules for terms and conditions. (NTV \$45,999)

[illegible]

checklist { August 2011 }

EASY WAYS TO
IMPROVE YOUR
HOME RIGHT NOW

Update safety gear

Observe National Safe at Home Week, which starts August 22, by stocking your house, garage, and car with first-aid kits. Make sure they're easy to spot in an emergency, and replace expired items, such as painkillers, asthma inhalers, and adhesive bandages. Add missing essentials, like scissors, tweezers, and gauze. Finally, learn how to handle common on-the-job injuries at the safehouse.com/august22.



What's on your checklist?



I like hanging a vibrant, glossy, deep red lamp on my garage to brighten the backyard at night. (For a window treat, I'll add a photo-cool light server.)
—Harry Vukob, Roseville, Mich.
E-mail us your ideas at checklist@theathome.com



Water smartly

Don't let the summer heat trick you into drowning your lawn. This time of year, grass benefits from a deeper but less frequent soak, so let your sprinklers release enough water to permeate the soil slightly below grass roots. Test this: run your sprinklers for 30 minutes, then dig a small hole to see how far the water has reached. For a more efficient watering routine, add a rain sensor to your sprinkler's timer.

TOH TIP

Banish mosquitoes

Instead of spending your summer napping at these pests, try these tips: Drain areas of standing water, including overfilled coffee bins, neglected potted plants. Clear tall weeds and thick foliage that can harbor noxious bugs. Spray under your deck with bait outside that contains long-lasting pyrethroids.

Caulk exterior joints

Keep cooling tails low and insects out of your house by sealing cracks around door and window frames, outdoor faucets, and openings for gas pipes and electrical lines. First, scrape out the old sealant.



Then fill with a flexible polyurethane caulk, smoothing out the bead with the back of a spoon. Go it slow, and your home will stay airtight well into the winter.



Keep foliage healthy

High humidity can leave trees and bushes with a nasty case of powdery mildew—a dirty gray or white coating that prevents plants from flowering and causes leaves to drop. To prevent it, thin out greenery to increase air circulation, and remove any leaves with ash-colored spots. If you already have mildew, spray with a horticultural oil, such as one that contains neem or horticultural



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home solutions

Edited by Jessica Todd/E. Feder

inside

10 USES

OUTDOOR LIVING IDEAS

REMODEL TIPS

MORE



← SMART IDEA

Rope-hung daybed

Summer may slowly be a full swing, but that doesn't mean it's too late to rig up some seating for your front porch. Built from Zulu painted a bright hue and lashed with 1-inch waxed together to create dense fencing, the patch shown here swings from natural rope for a boho look. To hang your own daybed in a similar manner, you'll need four lengths of thick manila rope. Anchor eyebolts in all four corners of the bed's frame, and hole standard shuddles (from a marine-supply store) to them. Loop the rope through the shackles, splice it, then whip the entire splice with heavy twine. Insert 2-inch eye screws into the porch railings, attach shackles, and do the same splicing and whipping at the other end of the rope to hang the bed from the railing.



chicken wire

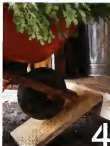
Despite its name, this wire mesh is not just for corraling poultry. Here's how to put it to work in your home

1 Open up a cabinet.

Replace the glass or wood fronts of cabinet doors with sheets of chicken wire to give a rustic look—and allow for airflow.

2 Support plants.

Cover the top of a pergola with chicken wire to prevent climbing vines from falling between the slats.



4

4 Make a nonslip ramp.

Wrap chicken wire around a board, then staple it to the back to create traction for wagons and wheelbarrows that need a leg up.



10

5 Stake growing veggies.

Fashion chicken wire into a cylinder by twisting the metal ends at the seam, then slide the resulting cage over a staked tomato plant to help it stand tall.

the workshop or garage to keep contents from falling off the back.

7 Firm up fence posts.

Before setting a gate post, cover its staple chicken wire around the base to bolster the anchoring and make the post more secure.

6 Contain shelf contents.

Attach chicken wire to the back of freestanding open shelving units to

8 Stiff garden soil.

Place chicken wire

layered so that the wires effort to make smaller holes (over a bucket), then pour soil through it to remove rocks, sticks and debris.

9 Keep out critters.

After chicken wire around the base of your chicken perch by burying the bottom edge a few inches below the soil to prevent animals from nesting under your house.

10 Hang tools.

Staple chicken wire to a board frame of 2x4s, weave small hand tools through the holes so that they're easy to reach.

—JENNIFER STANFORD

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Chuck, Spencerport, NY



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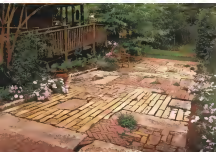
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► LANDSCAPING IDEA

Patchwork patio

Get an odd lot of bricks lying around the garage? Turn them into a custom patchwork patio. To start, gather enough pavers to cover your desired area or add on to an existing patio. If you don't already have enough bricks, check classified sites like Craigslist.org and diggers' lost for leftover and salvaged materials. Then map out a design that alternates large pavers with smaller pieces. Create a proper base and lay the brick in various patterns, including running bond and herringbone. Inspect the pavers as you go. Finish by sweeping sand between the joints or filling out a brick here and there for a pleasing spot. —C.F.



► MONEYMAKER

Strike gold at your yard sale

In honor of National Garage Sale Day (August 13), *Ami Deany* of GarageSale4Children shares how to make the big bucks.

1. **Trade your event wisely.** "Extreme Sale" or "Moving Sale" implies that you're liquidating a house's contents, and guarantees you more than "Garage Sale."
2. **Draw up attractions.** Place ads in local newspapers, online, on public bulletin boards. Reserve signs for the day of the event, and only list the sale's date, time, and general location.
3. **Offer deals.** While you shouldn't hand out items without a catch, encourage people to spend more with buy-one-get-one deals which let you profitably advertise free goods. —C.F.



► EASY UPGRADE

Bath redo by mail

A number of design services will send you sample renderings and shopping lists to help you create your ideal bath. But Bath Simple takes things one step further by shipping everything you need for a remodel—from the tub to tile grout—directly to your home in a single container.

The time- and stress-saving service starts at \$3,500 and maxes out at about \$35,000 depending on your bath's size and the materials you choose. First, a Bath Simple designer consults with you either in person or by phone to devise a floor plan and style scheme using some of the 3,000 products the company offers from major brands such as Hansgrohe Tiefs and Arneberg. Once you make your picks, it takes three to six weeks for your ready-to-install "bath in a box" to arrive. Not up for tying all that hardware on your own? The company will also help you hire a licensed contractor to ensure the final result looks just right. —C.F.

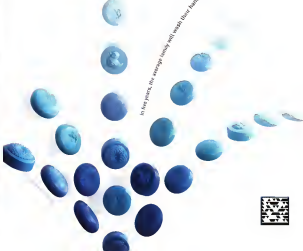


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4 GET ORGANIZED

Gain more closet space—without renovating

We consulted with closet designers from across the country to learn the secrets to creating the ultimate storage unit, no power tools required. —EMILIE BLANCO

Double up.

You need to dedicate only two-thirds of your closet to hanging, really. To maximize that space, install two of them—one well above eye level for long garments and one a little more than 3 feet off the ground for shorter (or folded) ones. Plus, use both of them: Fold items the back wall.

Put small items in their place.

Designate a container (a bowl or bin or a shelf or a pouch that hangs on the inside of the door) to serve as a catchall for loose change, receipts, or other items that accumulate in your pockets.



TO ENTER ▶ Go to www.thisoldhouse.com for a chance to win one of 20 \$500 gift certificates. For details, see page 24 or judge at thisoldhouse.com.

Add guiding lights.

Closets should be well lit for lighting. If yours isn't, use battery-powered stick-up LED lights, such as Sylver's Stick-Its (\$12 for three, lowest cost) along the top and under shelves so that you can find what you're looking for.

Divide and conquer.

Avoid jumbled piles of folded clothes by keeping shelf stacks to a height of 10 inches and partitioning them with dividers. Use Highmark's closet dividers (\$9 each, highmark.com).

Raise it up.

Only things that can be rolled or folded, such as sweaters, should be stored directly on the floor; everything else should sit at least 1 inch off the ground to allow for regular vacuuming.



reader tip

TOMMY ROMAN, VANDERBILT

"To keep track of all the screws, nails, and other hardware that come with ready-to-assemble furniture, I push them into a piece of the Styrofoam packaging. It allows me to easily count the pieces to make sure I have what I need, and prevents them from rolling off my work surface."

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before+after:
kitchen

From cramped to family-friendly

Compartments provided more light and flow, plus room to gather. Lots of white paint and white wood gave the space a village style. by DEBORAH BALLOWS • Photography by ANDREA JOGG

There's a limit to opening up an old house. Here, those small hallways and rooms can feel like back alleys and dead ends, but get carried away during demolition and you may sacrifice charm along with the original builder's panny. Designer David Hoad, known for his work on historic homes, likes to solve this problem by cutting and pasting with care while honoring period details. To improve flow in this 1908 house in St. Paul, Minnesota, he added on in back, nearly tripling the kitchen's size. Then he caulked new cabinets to those in the existing butler's panny and gave the space a clean, beamed-down look.

Homeowners Christina and Alexia Dallas opted for solid cabinet fronts over glass ones, allowing them to hide a desk and a TV in plain sight. "We have two kids, so there is always stuff around, but it never feels cluttered," says Alexia. Barn red walls, an oak floor, and a money beaded ceiling warm up a room headed in a more white. "People come in," she says, "and have no idea it's new."

before The dated kitchen had just 3 feet of prep space and one drawer (left). Rugged and longish, it now has tons of storage plus workspace, with a peninsula perch for Bessie (right).





after

Adding planks and moving two interior walls enlarged the kitchen to 282 square feet.

before

Just 208 square feet, the kitchen was too small for an eating area or island. A separate buffer a pantry held dishes, but there wasn't much prep space.



1 Extended the room 28 feet, allowing space for a light-filled breakfast area.

2 Added a 4-foot-long peninsula for prep space and a snack bar, and put in a window over the sink.



3 Built in a classic with a clean front to hide paperwork.

4 Widened the room by 3 feet with space from the kitchen island.

5 Moved the old closet wall to 3 feet so that it now flows up with the sanding floor.

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MINWAX

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the key details

• New window casings and crown-molding trim finished in matching white at the 2008 House Photo Contest by Benjamin Moore's Blackford



• V-groove paneling on the range hood anchors the watercolor. Soft-velvet kitchen and tile pulls reinforce the period look. (See "Kitchen" story) Latches: B&M Hardware. Pulls: Hickory Hardware



TO ENTER: Scan a QR code with your smartphone for a chance to win a \$2,000 watercolor kitchen cabinet giveaway. Quality Cabinets and an award-winning design team will select the winner. Visit www.qualitycabinets.com for details. Sweepstakes ends 12/31/12. Rules: www.qualitycabinets.com



• Crisp white cabinets, featuring the soft white Atlantic Black granite countertop to pop. Sink and faucet: Kohler. Tile: American Dream

► **bin-pull options** include chrome, brass, nickel, and more. Visit www.binnpull.com



• A flip-up cabinet door slides back to reveal the microwave. To its left is a doorway to the butler's pantry cabinets along the passageway. Trade: to match the pantry. Materials: Solid Maple. Color: White. © 2012



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- Frost, ice or condensation builds up on the interior of the glass (caused by inadequate insulation that allows a too-quick transition from hot to cold air)
- Your rooms are dark and dreary or your exterior windows are dark and mismatched

Try These Simple Tests

- Fold a lighted candle at window's edge. If it does, you've got drafts.
- Tap the frame with a flat blade screwdriver. If it pushes easily into the wood, it's a sign of decay.
- Standing outside the window, shine a flashlight around the entire window frame. If someone inside can see light coming through, you've got seal or frame leaks.

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see what Delta can do



Moved and improved

Relocating the only bath allowed for a claw-foot tub and separate shower, plus a vintage cottage look that matches the house. By DANIELLE BLANKELL • Photography by MICHAEL T. WOODS

Sometimes starting from scratch is the only way to go. When Fernan and Stephanie White first saw their 1930 Cape Cod cottage, they were taken aback by its only bath, a very narrow former pantry on the first floor. An avid DIYer with plans to reorganize the layout of the whole house for better flow, Stephanie decided to turn the bath into a hallway and carve a master bath out of a spare bedroom in the home's slanted-roof addition, which dates to the 1940s.

He started by gutting the addition, tearing out a new wall to create a workable rectangle for the bath, and laying a new plywood subfloor. Using chalk, the couple sketched a layout right on the plywood, figuring out where the tub, sink, storage shelf and cabinets would go, as well as an alcove for a shower stall. Then Fernan hung drywall, cut a new doorway, laid tile, and worked alongside a plumber and an electrician to set the fixtures in place.

Cool-blue walls, sand-colored marble floor tile, and white beadboard wainscoting give the new room a relaxing feel. "The bath is our safe place from all the dust," Stephanie says of ongoing work at the house. Then payoff clearly inspired them—they've already added a half bath upstairs for guests.

before The new existing bath was just 3½ by 7½ feet. Plywood subfloors the tub provided a place to rest tools. **after** Relocated and rebuilt with a vintage look, the new space flows in all the directions.



[before]



Beadboard accentuates the slanted ceiling while echoing the white oak.

the key details

• The medicine cabinet, built by homeowner Brantley, is a perfect fit between cupboards and summer-water-sprinkled sink. Sink Purchaser: Source: Project: Lighting



• Cast-iron latches from the original bath were a clipped 11 years off paint and rust.



• A laundry closet sits behind bedroom doors with built-in and built-in styling on the inside. Floor tile: Suburban tile tile. Windows: no glass. Kitchens

• Subway tile replaces the vintage look of the exposed shower area. Vanities and handshower. Shower: Mirrors. Hudson Head



before + after

Relocated to an adjacent bedroom and new four-door cabinet size. The new bathroom. The shower and new handshower. The new handshower and new handshower. The new handshower and new handshower.

3 Placed the tub under the showering and access to the door as a first priority. A shower stall shall only change for bath supplies.

1 Built a wall to reshape the space, coming out on a wall for a shower stall.

2 Cut a doorway into wall shared with the former bath, which became a hallway.



4 Turned the toilet out of view every door the door. Next to it is built in been cabinet beds. Fresh towels.

5 Built a laundry closet out of the tub to fit stackable units.

1. PHOTO: AL. 2. PHOTO: AL. 3. PHOTO: AL. 4. PHOTO: AL. 5. PHOTO: AL.

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landscaping

Flowers for late-summer color

A strategic mix of annuals and perennials yields a brilliant garden when the heat is really on

By JEANNE BURKE • Photographs by TERRY DAVIS

By August, most perennial gardens look more than a little weary. You can tidy up a bit by clipping, or just down to it, but sorry-looking foliage may be all that's left. Yet even on the hottest days of late summer, a garden can ablaze with color, as Kay Burdick's landscape does prove. Shown here and on the following pages is a look at late August, the undulating beds are packed with combinations that work even in dry yards. To get her glowing show of golds, reds, and oranges accented by whites and purples, Kay goes a well-planned mix of perennials and annuals—especially marigolds, whose seeds she sows and replants year after year, causing her nothing.

Like many gardeners, Kay started out modestly, with just a few small beds, and expanded gradually. Today, her flower borders look so stunning that people often pull all the way to stare when they are driving past her house, which sits on a rise in the northern Idaho town of



Unique beauty from familiar plants

ABOVE: Marigolds add warm and greenish-white dusty color put in a robust late-summer show. LEFT: Bellows, Pigeonhouse sage and velvet-colored Japanese barberry create spreading clouds of color.



Sun-loving borders

Reds, oranges, and yellows with hot colors and purples in this sunny late-summer garden (RIGHT and OPPOSITE TOP). A fountain flows from a ragged boulder into the nearby pond of flowing water.



Standout annuals in Kay's garden

These annuals pump out new blooms with most without plants becoming leggy or too tall.

Ombella (*Ombella pinnatifida*)

Available in many colors. This sturdy, small-headed annual is easily grown in containers. It doesn't require the staking and covered watering of deep up-borders that larger garden dahlias require. Grows 6 to 18 inches tall. Full sun.

**Mangold** (*Tropaeolum*)

Annual that grows in two main types: "Alma" (7 inches) which grows to 4 feet and "Pinnatifid" (7 inches) which stay under 18 inches. Despite the common name, both originated in the Andes and Central America. They thrive in hot climates. Full sun.

**Zinnia** (*Z. elegans*)

Also known as Mexican. This is a common garden plant with a wide range of colors, including yellow, orange, and white. Flowering begins from less than 1 inch to nearly 3 inches across. Grows 4 to 30 inches tall, depending on variety. Full sun.



Bonnie Perry and has a sweeping view of the Sefick Mountains.

The trick to having a lot of late season color, Kay says, is to think in terms of waves of blooms. She has her spring flowers, including crocuses of bulbs, such as tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths. Then come the early- to mid-summer bloomers, including irises, peonies, and poppies. The final flourish begins with the late-summer bloomers you see here, including dahlias, black-eyed Susans, cosmoses, and zinnias, alongside all those marginals. As summer transitions into fall, irises and chrysanthemums join the others. "My late husband, Wren, used to call it a three time annual harvest," Bonick says. "In early summer, we'd cut back the spring flowers, after they were spent. "In early summer, we'd cut back the spring flowers, after they were spent. Then when the irises and poppies faded, we'd have another harvest for the compost pile." A final cleanup in late fall got the yard ready for winter.

Those days Kay keeps up the morning flower show on her own, thanks to time-saving tools that reduce tedious chores such as weeding, watering, and deadheading. To maximize yields, the natives use plants cover all the silled soil, since as soon as twilight is when triggers many seed heads to sprout. She plants her late summer flowers in the springtime, tucking transplants in among the spring bulbs while they are still blooming. To ensure that each transplant will grow into a mound that reaches as neighbors in all directions, the plants densely, often in zigzag rows.

Kay's planning strategy requires lateral transplants—hundreds of daisies—so she grows her own from seed. She has a 14 by 30-foot greenhouse now but got by with window boxes for 20 years. She suggests that beginner gardeners start by buying nursery flats of annual seedlings and asking longtime gardeners if they have any personal plants to share. Kay has had people knock on her door with that question, and she's happy to oblige, since many perennials do better when they are shared periodically anyway.



for shady spots

In pots and baskets, tuberoses begonia (LEFT) lighten low light areas with lots of colorful flowers and stringy leaves.



Because the plants so densely, Kay doesn't have to worry about spreading compost throughout the season to keep the soil covered. She does it once a year, in late fall or early spring, depending on the weather. She maintains two big compost piles so that she can harvest from one and add to the other each year. She alternates between other clippings with manure from her horses and vegetable scraps from her kitchen, and uses a garden tractor to mix the mixtures several times each season.

Watering's never a problem for Kay because she has an in-ground irrigation system. Soaker hoses or drip tubing linked to a timer are a simple, less expensive option.

And cutting back spent flowers and foliage? Kay minimizes that chore by not being obsessive. She says she never takes up the mangolds by deadheading. Since she wants the seeds, deadheading isn't a problem in her eyes; they are an investment in the future.

She does need to cut back spent plants periodically, of course, but she's found that if she does a little each evening, usually less than an hour, her yard never gets out of control. "When I go home at night, that's what I do to relax," says Kay, who now runs the family collision repair business on her own during the day. "I go out and smell the flowers. It's a lot more fun than fighting with insurance companies." ■

Colorful summer-to-fall perennials

Don't have the energy for growing and planting around each year? Pick these perennials for some vibrant late season color.

**Ombella plant**

(*Ombella pinnatifida*) Native to central and southern states. Produces pink or purple flower spikes that resemble umbrellas. Common name refers to the way individual flowers stay (horizontal) in whatever position they're placed. Hardy to -40 degrees F. Full sun.

**Red eye weed**

(*Elodea canadensis*) An evergreen. Flowers form in pink racemes along stems 6 to 7 feet tall. Hardy everywhere. Full sun to light shade in half-test areas.

**Cardinal flower** (*Loasium cardinalis*)

Native mostly to boggy areas of North America. Lights up moist garden beds with spikes of rich, long-lived flowers. Hardy everywhere. Full sun to partial shade.

**Winking star** (*Lewisia rediviva*)

Native to southern and central states. Produces spikes up to 4 feet tall topped by white, lavender, or pink flowers. Hardy almost everywhere. Full sun.

**Japanese anemone**

(*Anemone*, *A. hupehensis*) Hardy in most soils. Sends up wispy stems with pink or white flowers in late fall. Can spread to cover large areas unless soil is dug around it to discourage. Hardy to -20 degrees F with a thick winter mulch.



TO ENTER: Search for your favorite plant for a chance to win a \$100 cash reward. Send your entry to: www.earthlink.net/~earthlink/contests. For details, see page 14 or go to www.earthlink.net/~earthlink/contests.

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Vintage-look handshowers

They cut a convincing period profile while standing ready to hose down shampooed heads, pets—even the tub itself. Here's how two compare, starting with price.

For THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPERS, Photographs by TED BACHUSSEN

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bundle and base

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look and feel

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Small, round, light-colored spots are visible in the skin and are common in the U.S. Southern states. The large, dark, oval spots are common in the U.S. Southern states.

small in size, with a relatively small head and thin ribs for a good grip. Vinyl and latex tend to be smooth.

Exceeds others by only using a mere 2.5-gallons per minute regulation low-flow shower head. Overall, feels lighter, simpler, and more kid-friendly.

Source: <http://www.ashmoleanmuseum.com>

Open-air dining room

This outdoor spot brims with French country charm, thanks to a mix of weathered paint, fresh florals, and antiqued accents. Here's how to achieve a similar look in your home

By DEBORA DODGE-FEDER • Photography by MARK LICHMAN

Eating outside doesn't always mean having to balance on a rickety bench or sprawl across a blanket. It can be an elegant affair, complete with all the comforts you'd enjoy indoors. Whether well-proportioned farm table, simple storage, and vintage-inspired seating, this patio looks as good—and works as well—as any formal dining room. "The distressed linens and wide metal folding hoffer recall the south of France," says California designer Loretta McGraw. "But beyond being pretty, this space is a fully functional entertaining area." Case in point: The table accommodates six, the rightward console is a mini fridge and bar, and the custom 8-foot-wide cushion, framed in reclaimed cutting table, not only reflects light but makes the entire room appear larger. Vintage warming cans and salvaged-wood bar stools add a decorative touch and can do double duty in the garden. Want to put together your own space that's as beautiful as it is practical? Read on. ■

**weathered
watering can**
With its classic shape and
brushed zinc coating, this watering
can works just as well decorating a
table as it does watering plants.
\$22 jordanhardware.com



**headboard-front
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harmeninteriors.com

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dome. \$154, jesseinteriors.com



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stain and water-resistant
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and comes with a metal
frame and a blue seat.
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thrown glazed pitcher, modeled after
a piece of early American pottery.
\$75, dallasdesigncompany.com



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this eye-catching
cypress wood
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It's perfect for a well-worn look.
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Use a comb to create herringbone

Transform a tired surface with glass, tape, and a toothy tool

By ERIC BASSIGIAN Photography WENDEL T. WENGER

If you like the textured look of herringbone, see what a paint comb can do. Drawing a comb through wet-colored glass gives this plain laminate table an almost three-dimensional look. "This is one of my favorite tricks," says decorator/painter Leta Lessa. "The best part is, if you don't like the way the pattern looks, as long as the glass is still wet you can just wipe it away and start again."

Lessa started out by sanding and priming the table, and putting down a base coat. She used a satin finish, which helps the glass coat go on and cover off more smoothly. The herringbone pattern was created with equal parts latex paint and clear acrylic glass. Glass gives the drying time, but when choosing a color, keep in mind that glass will also lighten it, Lessa says. To minimize drips, wipe off the comb after each pass. When the pattern is dry, top it with a protective coat of polyurethane.

Once you get handy with the technique, you can experiment with waves, zigzags, and crosshatches and on other surfaces, from walls to flower pots. For a closer look at herringbone how-to, read on. ▶

paint comb

You can buy a rubber painting comb (\$8.50; amazon.com) or make one by crimping teeth out of a plastic putty knife (right)



PAINT: Myelin's White (base coat), Bunsy of Heart (glass coat), and Bunsy of Heart (white)



TOENTER-

You're living with your share of the world's worst of the world's worst of the world's worst. Order it in the house.

1 Find the center Once the base coat is dry, find and mark the center point of your surface with a measuring tape. You'll use this as a guide to section off the 3-inch painter's tape



2 Apply the glass Mix equal parts clear acrylic glass and latex paint, and pour into a mini roller tray. Using a small foam roller, apply the tinted glass, rolling in the direction of the tape

3 Start the stripes Run a piece of tape across to the center of the surface to one side of the pencil mark



Comb the surface. Set the comb at a 45-degree angle to the stripes, and pull it across the surface, cutting through the glass. Repeat across the entire surface. If you make a mistake, just re-roll and recomb

4 Space the stripes Put down a second piece of tape right alongside the first, then a third. Now remove the middle piece and align it with the third piece. Add another piece right alongside it, pull up the middle piece, and continue pulling to create evenly spaced stripes



5 Paint and comb the second set of stripes Pulling at a diagonal, remove the tape while the glass is tacky. Let dry. Cover the colored stripes with tape. Repeat Steps 4 and 5 drawing in the opposite direction at 45 degrees. Remove the tape and enjoy

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kitchen + bath
special

Our favorite new product picks

TOTD editors scoured the market for upgrades that make life easier, better, or just more fun, from a fire-at-anywhere fireplace to a sleekly coiled pot-warmer faucet to a seductive smoking tub. See something you need or just want? Look closely—you may be able to win it.

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Add a fireplace to your cook space without ceding a fraction of space. Using The Outdoor GreatRoom Company's InspireFire Fireplace in a well-ventilated or well-ventilated kitchen, it comes in a brushed stainless steel finish that will mesh well with modern appliances. \$679. outdoorgreatroom.com

outdoorgreatroom.com

→ instant bidet

Put me bidet without installing up the line. Swapon Pouches are slow-dissolve Electric Bidet Seats with Dryer jets gear up when you sit down. Just select from five temperature settings for heat and back massaging and dry. \$229. swapon.com



→ small, dark, and handsome

Flatter your cabinet with a sleek, dark, and handsome pendant. The Carbon Steel and Copper Pendant is available in September. \$3.62 to \$5.52. www.acehardware.com

www.acehardware.com



→ lots of mirror, low cost

The door on the door is a 12 by 18 by 4 inch mirror is mounted on both sides, opens 100 degrees for a wide view and shuts with a soft close. The mirror is also on long-life glass, protective glass shelves. \$199. mcm.com



→ retro pendant

With a brushed glass shade and a strong, modern design, this First to Forward pendant (P1184-01) has the graceful look of a pricey reproduction. Hang lots over the table in the island. \$119. mcm.com

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Types 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, and 1f directly use undercabinet lighting with Hella's LOOK surface-mount battery-powered LED fixture. It flicks on with a motion detector, and its cool light won't threaten your party status. **148 hella.com**



* counter-declutterer

5. *Leptocarpus longilamellatus* and *L. longilamellatus* var. *longilamellatus* (Diels) Diels. On some leaves—open and from 575 (Diels) Diels. (Diels) Diels.



* a dream that stays clear

Know how the Bad News of golf is 1949—and I can
aff—the class? Kudos to doing the world of the
same by the y. There is only 1949! The
series on love of the world is, including the
Bendwood and a series of 1949, as a series of



* bath-fan berries

It's hard to find a good last light photo that doesn't look pretty or surreal like a sci-fi scene. Nature's dark landscape isn't only black, says Ives. For example, a quarter moon must appear full, or it's not a last light photo. When IED night light had a wedding in mid-July, he was out there hours. \$3000, maybe less.

[illegible]

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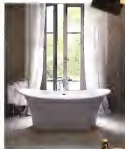
- private has device

Interiors unmarred as is the hallmark of TapKnobs. Passport Collection of knobs and pulls. The Tuscan Bronze finish (shown) has a rich old world patina. From \$4.95. techniques.com



* breakfast-nook (afternoon)

Classic Shaker meets English Modern at Thos. Moser's. Me in the Placid Dining Table. The place is all rich solid cherry. Top and compound curved and layered base comfortably available. Its craftsmanship, still in a lifetime. \$2,995. Free home delivery.



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limestone and half
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* rustic tag

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Its pleasantly oiled surface is
lightweight, Medium Bronze
Finish and sure to add warmth to
your yard. \$525. dance.com



^a "water-milled" planks

A special breeding process gives *Carissa* a white plant sold as an ornamental flowering shrub. The leaves look like wax, and the colored are shown. From \$12.95 per square foot, white plant flowers.

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From shortening footprints to adding function, these products promise to make the day flow more smoothly.



• easier-to-handle pot washer

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• convertible oven

Cook different dishes at different temperatures in the same oven. The Dual Oven. Just slide the chef's hat. It fits in a groove in the closed door to create two ovens. Two ovens and two conversion fans allow them to operate independently. \$1,999. www.directbuy.com



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design
ideas

3 baths, 3 styles

If you want to add vintage charm to a new washroom or polish to a period one, look to Victorian, Craftsman, and Art Deco designs for inspiration. BY MARILYN BILLORELL

YOU
COULD WIN
a Victorian-
inspired bath
suite from
Kohler
before Aug. 15.

Shapely cast-iron claw-foot tubs, hexagonal floor tiles, and chrome cross-handle fixtures are the given for crafting modern bathrooms with timeless appeal.

In wide rotation since the late 1800s and early 1900s, when the Victorian, Craftsman, and Art Deco styles reigned in succession, these fixtures and finishes look so good and function so well that they're left little room for improvement, even after all these years.

For help pinpointing even more design elements to guide your own classic bath room reimagining project, the editors of *This Old House* created the following primer on the three most influential and enduring styles of the past.

VICTORIAN

With elegance at the heart of the Victorian-era design philosophy, bathroom built between the 1860s and 1900 often featured an all-white color scheme with marble accents and freestanding fixtures.

1 Scrubbelek surfaces

Smooth marble or tile floors and porcelain coat tops on tubs and sinks made scrubbing easy—no scrub.

2 Exposed pipes

Hot- and cold-water lines and vent pipes were standing fixtures when it came to Victorian-era plumbing.

3 Furniture-looking fixtures

Tubs perched on ornate risers and ornate faucets derived old-fashioned elegance.

4 Wetroom walls

Wetroom walls in painted broadboard (wood paneling) or glazed subway tiles made the walls easy to clean.



It means you'll need to consider the Craftsman movement when you built from 1910 to 1930. It has some often featured wood-tinted fixtures and heavy built-ins, as well as block-printed wallpapers and tiled tiles with botanical motifs.

CRAFTSMAN



YOU
COULD WIN
a Craftsman-
inspired
bath suite
from Kohler
Details p. 58.



1. Mixed-beam hardware

Light fixtures and cabinet knobs were made of a combination of brass and copper in wrought-iron finishes and tub fixtures were typically nickel-plated brass.

2. Warm wood accents

Most Craftsman homes had wood accents. A lot of the time, the wood was stained or stained to highlight the wood grain.

3. Earth-toned color palette

Paints in shades of green, yellow, and brown were used. The colors were brought in by the colors of the natural materials.

4. Geometric motifs

Many Craftsman homes had geometric motifs. The most common was the diamond shape, which was used in a variety of ways, including in the design of the tiles and the pattern of the wallpaper.

ART DECO



1. Bold built-ins

From 1920 to 1930, many homes had Art Deco-style built-ins. The built-ins were often made of wood and featured bold, geometric shapes.

2. Bathing niches

Bathing niches were often built into the wall. They were used for storing towels and other bathroom items. The niches were often decorated with Art Deco-style tiles.

3. Bold tile work

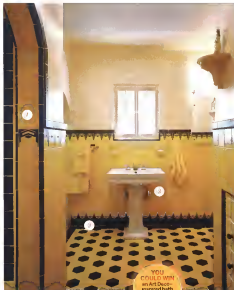
Art Deco tile work was often made of ceramic tiles. The tiles were often in bold, geometric shapes, such as squares, rectangles, and diamonds. The tiles were often in shades of yellow, green, and blue.

4. Streamlined fixtures

Streamlined fixtures were often made of chrome. The fixtures were often in bold, geometric shapes, such as rectangles and squares. The fixtures were often in shades of chrome and nickel.

5. Reflective finishes

Reflective finishes were often used in Art Deco bathrooms. The finishes were often made of chrome and nickel. The finishes were often in bold, geometric shapes, such as rectangles and squares.



YOU
COULD WIN
an Art Deco-
inspired bath
suite from
Kohler
Details p. 58.

GIVEAWAY PRIZES!

Enter for a chance to win any of three period-inspired suites of Kohler bath products—stylish fixtures and fittings worth a total of \$26,655! Some of the highlights of the prize packages are shown here, but each one also includes all the necessities to create your very own vintage-style retreat.

VICTORIAN

Decorate an updated tub or the style with a mix-piece suite of products valued at \$14,008.

This prize package includes Kohler's Arroyo Wall Mount Lavatory Faucet in polished chrome (1); the Kohler's Chemistry Bath and Vessel; Lavatory and/or Clawfoot tub (2); the 6-foot standard Bath soaker tub (3); and a pair of chrome toilet and shower head (4) plus five more products.



CRAFTSMAN

Purchase a modern transitional bath with a 10-piece suite of products valued at \$6,452. This prize package includes Kohler's sand brass Miniport Waterguard Lavatory Faucet in polished brushed nickel (1); the Freshwater Lavatory Vessel in brass (2); the 24-inch Dreamwood vanity (3); and the Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired® mirror. Free glass by-pass Basin Door is included as the Oak Park Glass Pedestal (4) plus 12 more products.



ART DECO

Get the glamorous treatment with an 10-piece suite of products valued at \$5,195. This prize package includes Kohler's Prosigna Waterguard Lavatory Faucet with cross-style handles in vibrant polished nickel (1); the Freshwater 30-inch Pedestal Lavatory in white (2); the Prosigna low-flow toilet (3); a 6-foot linen or vibrant polished nickel (4); and an elongated toilet seat (5) plus six more products.



TO ENTER ▶ Scan the tag with your smartphone for a chance to win a any of three suites of Kohler bath products online page. For details, see page 14. Or go to kohlertag.com.

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Dressing up a flat facade

A proud new portico and ornamental trim give a plain two-story a gracious new look

By ERIC BASTENHORN • Illustrations by HOWARD DIBITAL



Before

"It was kind of our dream house," says Lucas Workman of this 1932 Colonial Revival in Middletown, Ohio, which he shares with his wife and daughter. "It's also only a four-apper." After trying it for two years, the Workmans finally bought the place and then got motivated: two herbs and the kitchen without having any help. But when it came to the plan, one-dimensional facade, they were puzzled as to how to proceed.

For inspiration, we called architect Damon Helgers, who encounters all sorts of Colonial Revivals in his Amherst, N.Y., practice. "Some two-stories here run the gamut from basic early American styles to more embellished Federal houses," he says. "This house can afford subtle touches of ornamentation."

Then, he suggests adding a new portico for depth and a more formal entrance. Pilasters at the corner help frame the front, and detail molding under the eaves and below the porch corner introduces class to building detail. Working shutters provide texture and balance, and classic copper gutters tie the look together. "Pretty sharp," says Lucas of the proposed changes. "It's definitely where we'd like to go with the house."



Finishing touches

Neutral-color cladding is detailed with woodwork, a



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TO ENTER

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your chance to win
to win \$25,000 worth
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the national lotto and
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and prizes and
draws for 2010. See
page 30 for rules
at thisoldhouse.com/lotto



door knocker

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knocker pairs nicely to
the new door. See
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Tools of their trades

The TOH TV crew dishes the dirt on the essentials they use at every job site—so you'll know just what to look for at the hardware store. By KENNETH KOSLOFF • Photographs by ANTHONY TOLUJ

Now they're masters of their respective crafts, but there's one thing that the TOH TV crew has in common with all DIYers: They rely on a handful of well-made tools for nearly all the projects they tackle. We asked each of them to spill the beans on the five tools they can't live without and the must-have features that make them useful. Whether you're starting a job or finishing from scratch or just replacing a few items, their time-tested tips will guide you to all the right choices.

Roger Cook

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

Roger relies primarily on long-reach hand tools. (1) His go-to landscaping shovel has a spade head and a flexible fiberglass handle. "Wood handles can snap when you're prying up rocks and stumps," he explains. (2) A must-have for flower beds is a dual-action grub bar and post (also known as a method). "A grubber has a heavier steel blade than a garden hoe, which helps break up hardened soil," he says. The pick is useful for starting hole for plantings. (3) While he usually prefers fiberglass handles, Roger finds a wood-handled level head steel rake more comfortable for spreading soil and mulch. (4) For weeding, pick up a combination hand cultivator and mini grub hoe with a head and neck forged from a single piece of metal. The hoe helps break up clumps of weeds. (5) Last, don't forget a rugged plastic wheelbarrow. "It's lighter than steel, won't rust, and will save your back," he says.

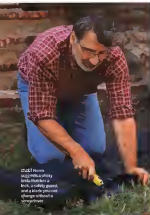


dig in
For power of landscaping, Roger relies on a spade with a fiberglass handle and a dual-action head.



Norm Abram

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Chisel Home
Norm's utility
knife features a
hook, a safety guard,
and a knife you can
change without a
screwdriver.



fellow Norm's head and pick tools that offer useful features and precision: (1) He keeps an retractable utility knife on hand for opening boxes or other lightweight tasks. "It's easier than using a lathe knife," he says. (2) For sawing cabinets, used bar to fit less than perfect walls, he relies on a good quality compass with locking parts that won't shift out of place. (3) Norm says to cordless drill is a compact, lightweight 12-volt model. "Don't bother with a bulky 38-volt version," he says. "Today's lithium-ion drills have enough power for most projects." (4) To check the accuracy of new cuts, Norm uses a 12-inch combination square at job sites and a 4-inch one in his shop for furniture projects. Both have steel heads, which are sturdier than plastic or die-cast metal. (5) He uses crosscuts for trim and molding call for a miter saw. Norm recommends a 12-inch compass and saw that swivel in both directions for mitering, tilts for beveling, and has a built-in laser guide for accuracy. (His scoping square has dual lasers, one on each side of the blade.)



Easy reach
A beam wrench helps
Richard tighten faucet
strings located deep in
sink cabinets.

Richard Trethewey

PLUMBING AND HEATING EXPERT

Richard's must-have tools include both specialty and general purpose items. (1) If you do your own plumbing (or want to), Richard recommends a long-handled basin wrench for fiddling with impossible-to-reach sink fittings. If it save your knuckles from getting scraped up," he says. (2) A mini tubing cutter, which is to slice through metal or plastic pipe, is useful for tight quarters. (3) No homeowner should be without a pair of water-pump pliers. "The adjustable jaws can fit around pipes of any diameter, and they offer plenty of torque for tough leaks like loosening a radiator nut," Richard says. The jaws should have non-slip teeth that grip well. (4) Instead of carrying several screwdrivers, he relies on an 11-1/2-inch lip screwdriver. (5) Richard always keeps a cordless drill at the ready for tasks that a screwdriver can't handle.



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Tom Silva

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Years of road-testing have helped Tom refine his tool choices. (1) To save time while working, he always wears a tool belt. "A good belt is easy to adjust, with pockets that are comfortable to reach into," he says. He makes his own by grafting thin-leather pouches from a store-bought belt onto an old seat belt. (2) Though you surely own a hammer already, he recommends a wood-handled straight-claw hammer for most tasks. "A 16-ounce hammer has plenty of heft but isn't too heavy," he says. And the wood handle absorbs less than metal or plastic, so it's easier on hands and arms. (3) Tom reaches for his 12- and 35-foot tape measures frequently. He prefers ones that lock in place when extended. (4) A speed square holder clipped to his tool belt keeps this handy device at his fingertips. "When you use often, it should be as effortless as a reflex," he says. (5) He always carries a multi-tool with pliers, screwdrivers, and files for working in tight spots or making repairs on the go.



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Tom's tool belt
hangs on his
seat belt, so
it's always
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weekend
remodel

Make a hypertufa table

This rugged stuff can weather spilled drinks, sticky hands, and even harsh winters. Use it to make a versatile outdoor table that will last for years. *By JOANNE STANFORD • Photography by MICHELLE T. WITCZAK*

Cook's Tip

Time: 8 hours plus curing time for the tabletop

Difficulty: Easy. Even a novice can cast the tabletop and build the matched base.

If you've never heard of hypertufa, let us explain why this concrete look-alike is the perfect material for an outdoor table. Made from a mix of concrete, peat moss, and perlite, hypertufa has much of concrete's strength and durability, but it weighs a lot less, doesn't require sealing, and has a more textured, organic appearance. Senior technical editor Mark DeWitt cast a tabletop with a recess for adding cup-and-saucer set and designed a matched cedar base that can be taken apart and stored flat. Hypertufa requires a few weeks to cure, so get started now and you'll be able to show off your hand-some new table before summer draws to a close.



For complete instructions, turn the page.



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4. Cast the tabletop

- A. Fill the form halfway.** Coat the form's interior with petroleum jelly or packing spray so that the tabletop can be easily removed later. Add hyperbolic and the form's flat halfway. As you work, use a screed board to level the mix, and tap the form with a hammer to get rid of bubbles.
- B. Place the wire mesh.** Lay the large piece of wire mesh atop the mix so that the edges around the platform are bent upward. Add mix until the platform is covered by no more than 1/2 inch. Lay the wire mesh out flat atop the mix, over the platform.
- C. Finish filling the form.** Add mix to the form to fill the mix halfway to the top. Leveling it and getting rid of air bubbles as you work. Cover the form with plastic to retain moisture for a slow, steady cure. Let the tabletop cure for a few weeks.

Tip Use a pencil to label the top edge of the crosspieces and the bottom edge of the stretchers so that you'll know what edges to put the tabletop on.

5. Cut the base's parts

- A. Cut and notch the boards.** Refer to the cut list at the house plan to get all. Cut each board to size for crosspieces and stretchers. Use a miter saw to cut the ends of the stretchers and upper crosspieces at opposing 45-degree angles, and cut 1/2 inch off the long points of each.
- B. Cut out the notches.** Refer to the diagrams on page 12. Use a hand saw to cut the notches on the long edges of the crosspieces. Each notch will be 1/2 inch wide and will extend to half the width of the board or 1/4 inch. (See the cut list at houseplans.com/supplies for notch locations and sizes.) Mark the notches with a scrap block clamped on edge and make the cuts with a hand saw.



6. Build the base

- A. Dry-fit the sides.** Place an upper crosspiece on a work surface, notches facing upward. Place heavy blocks at each end, pushing the crosspiece into the notches. Lay upper support blocks into the upper crosspiece's notches so that they're flush at the top and fit between the notches. Lay lower crosspieces onto the legs with the notches facing upward, abutting the upper support blocks and flush with the legs' outer edges. Lay lower support blocks into the legs, abutting the lower crosspiece and flush with the legs' bottoms. Repeat for the second side.
- B. Assemble the sides.** Dry-fit one 1/2 inch piece that's on top. Apply polyurethane glue to its back, and set it back in place. Tack the pieces together using a pneumatic nailgun and 1 1/2 inch nails. Repeat for the second side.
- C. Fit the base together.** Stand the sides upright with the lower crosspieces facing outward. Fit the stretchers into the notches on the crosspieces.



7. Place the tabletop

- A. Remove the form.** Flip the form over and place it on a work surface, foam facing up. Use a drill to loosen and remove the screws. Push on the flat ends of the form's short sides to lift them down and away from the tabletop. Pull off the long sides and remove the foam.
- B. Smooth the edges and surfaces.** Run a scrap block of wood over the edges, corners, and surface of the table top to soften rough spots and scrape away any leftover foam.
- C. Position the tabletop on the base.** Center the tabletop on the base. Downright will hold it in place. If you're adding another plant that thrives in shallow soil to the recess, lower the tabletop with a hand saw, while the table base will be a hand saw.

Tip If you still stick to the tabletop after it has dried, slide a piece of wood under the edges of each piece and pry it off bit by bit.



How a couple of hands-on homeowners took a bungalow from dilapidated to delightful, using home-center finds

1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 26

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BEN JOWAN • STYLING BY ANDREW HODGSON



Harmonizing the fascia and joints by exposing the rubber balls and noting their relative work.

1—
reimagine
the facade

Beige slacks and a nondescript shirt gave the smiling burglar an evolutionary look. [By David](#)

► Plastering the front well is crucial and getting spray on fiber cementing siding reinforced the front face of the house. The other walls got a coat of white paint.

► Exposing the rafters, as well as topping the roof with new asphalt shingles, added welcome detail to the skyline.

- Relocating windows created openness and allowed room for shutters
- Building a deeper porch with heavy columns and crisp siding made the entry more welcoming

• A light-colored cloth with brass hardware, buttoned shirt, scissors, salvaged brasswork, and a rose entwined pickel fence helped give the exterior a whimsical look.

FRONT LITUSOR

Detail to show LEFT: Pella
Thermawall windows, from
\$300. PERENNIA 1 Light Black
Wall Lamps, \$25. Kichler ideas
endy dim. \$225. Green's
BuddingEdge (solid panel
and chandelier, from \$25. per
Hedder's Logosystems, \$200
the white coat.

- The entrance was easily deeded inside entry laundry via STCOC
- Sweeping in snow window clean white Thermolux cabinets housed a pair of white built-in drawers with angled-edge fronts in the living floor and master bedroom. Most floor, stained wood molding and built-in cabinets sophisticated contrast
- Corridor half wall to one side of the doorway STCOC opened the space to the dining room. Dining island made from mirrored-tint glass gave patch
- New oak flooring added a warm note to the stainless steel appliances and built-in for other rooms in the new space

- The entrance and stair gallery door ended inside entry laundry was STGAC
- Staircase in stair window clean with 7 thermal cabinets braced
- Staircase door and glass entry counters with aluminum edge finish the below
- longer and snowing... 1000
- Floor, stained steel molding and
- finished stainless-steel cabinet
- Corridor half and to one side of the doorway, STGAC opened the space to the dining room. Stairing speed made
- them concerned not a game pitch
- Now also flooring dated, gave note to the standard stair applications and feel
- into the other rooms in the room plan



Similar to most, AOC's E&LPT format features graphic content on lines 177 up to station 101. Other 30- and 60-sec spots are available. Most advertising rates for 30-sec spots are \$1,000. The Prime Deal, 90-sec spots during 23rd Super-Capacity half-hour, \$1,075. BA's New York Connect costs \$1,100 for 30-sec spots. Prime Time Midweek, 12-11, takes \$1,100 for 30-sec spots. 11-12P Rock! and Full-on-Planet, 244 Green L. Drive, Millis, 20-sec spots \$475/line. 12-1245 Stars America's Funniest Home Videos, 4750 Route 12, 20-sec spots \$475/line.

The kitchen annexed a bountry tree off the side door; the weather and dryer now fit behind cabinet doors. A winter opening and a half well tree connect the truck space to the driveway. Forks drive in from the main entrance to a new door.



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- The original living areas were dated and disordered. **REFORM**
- Adding warmth to the green modern look by giving the living areas a textured pulled together look. LPT: For comfort with a wide, plush visual large
- Reupholstering windows with a fabric that has a subtle floral design added detail
- Following reupholstering the floors with a medium brown carpet to unify the space.
- Painted green in the kitchen fireplace. **REPAIR** while on the second narrow resistant black on the built surround

- The original living levels were dirt and discolored. **REPAIR:**
 - Adding insulation to the ground conditions and giving the floor beams a new sand-filled pulled together look. LIFT. For uniform weight, a wide, thick raised layer.
 - Replacing windows with sills that have a raised wooden ledge added (left).
 - Replacing rotting sub floors with a medium insulation under the space.
 - Paint green on the left fireplace (left), white on the second and third, and black on the left corner.





5

add charm
with color
and wainscot

The details of the drawings were strictly identical.

Adding breadboard connector pins
shortens (which became necessary)
for breadboard while reinforcing the
board is college style

► Painting the wainscot, trim, and furniture white helped keep the blue scheme's unassuming too sweet.

• Floor-length curtains hung above the windows help elongate them and make the ceilings look higher.



4

extend the living
space outdoors

The back of the house, where the bedrooms, are located, face almost perpendicular to the outside. B&B&B

• Replacing small windows with French doors brought in air and light, making the 12 by 12-foot bathroom feel larger.

• Adding a deck with a pergola off the master bedroom extended the living space without altering the house's footprint. The deck steps down to the drive, a grilling area, and a hot tub set off by a picket fence along the rest of the house.



6

upgrade
the garage

The free-standing pump had the blank, heavy look of a storage unit. NOISE: Its lift and raise does was only out of date

* Swapping in a sectional door with raised panels and divided-light windows brought the garage up to par with the house.

• A blossoming vine over the door signifies the all-wise master. 🌿



GARAGE:
Double to choose, LIFT
Traditional Woodcut metal
garage door. Iron about
12-2000 available. Save.

20 ways to refresh your bath on a budget

REVIVING a tired washroom needn't require a total overhaul. On the following pages, see how updated fixtures, painted floors, smart storage solutions, and creative wall, window, and mirror treatments can add character and style at an affordable price by Stan Williams



Tie together and tile

- Coordinated accents** Give your bath a designer touch with matching accessories. Here, the round oval mirror's silver frame is echoed by the decorative metal outlet covers. Similar to shown: Kohler 20-inch recessed Medicine Cabinet, \$179, and Delta Fenda Design Brushed Satin Powder standard wall plates, \$8.94 each; [lowes.com](#)
- Tiled top** An alternative to a stone slab, a tiled counter resists water, but costs and takes a bit longer to install. This terra-cotta top has white-painted wood graining to provide the visual barrier. A bead of clear caulk keeps water away from the wood. Similar to shown: Merola Tile Augusta-6 inch tile, \$4 per square foot; [homedepot.com](#)

Preserve and polish

- Refinished fixtures** Rather than replace an old cast-iron claw-foot tub and sink, save a bundle by refinishing them instead. A pair of fixtures can cost as much as \$2,000 compared with about \$200 for having both replaced by a professional. Find a pro at [napcofin.com](#)
- Painted floors** Give worn wood floors new life by brushing boards with glossy porch paint linked to match your bath's color scheme. To get the look shown here, add Benjamin Moore's Sunrise Red to its white Latex Floor & Patio Enamel. \$40 per gallon; [benjaminmoore.com](#)

PHOTOS: (THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE PAGE) JEFFREY MAYER



- Stripped towels** Refresh each one's \$100 value without cost. Just be sure to seal the edge with a clear polyurethane.

4



Repurpose and recycle

6. DIY wallpaper Make your own graphic wall by reusing old images from a vintage book. Glue the page backs with wallpaper paste instead of to the wall. This tactile surface with a clear top coat. *DIYers: Sun-Grip Kitchens and Bath Wallcovering Adhesive, \$23 per gallon, and Minwax Sebn Polyurethane Protective Finish, \$18 per quart, both on sale.*

7. Salvaged slides When space doesn't allow for a traditional hinged door, install a sliding one. This salvaged schoolhouse door glides on a wall-mount track, entered after two 1/4-inch hardware slides on the door's top panel, others light from the hallway into the windowless bath. *Expect to pay about \$300 for a similar door at columbiacreativeinteriors.com.*

8. Metal tub surround Craft a rustic-trendy nod to your drop-in bathtub out of corrugated, galvanized steel roof paneling. A 32-by-32-foot sheet, enough for one side of a tub (as shown), is about \$18 at homedepot.com.



Play up walls and floors

9. Brightened tile Refresh a vintage tiled floor such as this unglazed Art Deco-era yellow and black pattern mosaic with acrylic sandpaper and enamel paint. *Apply the paint to the surface and sand it down. Green-Grey Mosaic Acid Replacement, about \$7 per gallon, grouters.com.*

10. Harmonious-color palette Create a striking monochromatic effect by painting walls to match your floors, as was done in this sunny space. *Similar to shown, midwest rusticant Bath Paint Semi Gloss Finish Intercoat Tinted, \$43 per gallon, shawnee-industrials.com.*

11. Water-resistant wallboard Thriller film meet wall tile and less: Instead of thin wood, beadboard paneling made from cellular PVC stands up to flooding and never needs to be painted. Eight-inch-wide panels come in white or taupe. *\$10 for a 3-foot-high piece, vinylpvcwoodworks.com.*

12. Frame your glass with fused glass, costing \$30 for a frame at The Home Depot. See the step-by-step at thehouse.com/august12.

MAKE OVER A MIRROR

13. Painted overlay

Design a plan mirror that's adhered to the wall by covering it with a painted overlay. Here, three mirrors were created from one by taping a 1x4 to the wall at the top, hanging vertical 1x4s and a 1x4 collar to hold the mirror with clear adhesive caulk. A 1x2 ledge crowns the assembly. *Expect to pay about \$45 for the people at lambertyside.*

14. Tile frame

Use a mirror with a mix-and-match glass tiles of the same size and thickness. This multicolor frame also surrounds a blood wall border. *Similar to shown, glass requests starting at \$30 each, cool-to.com.*

15. Salvaged window

Recurpose a Victorian-era red-iron surround from a fireplace surround to hold a glass pane. *Use the pane to make the window opening. The surround from LumberJunkies, like this one, is on offer at \$150 at salvagelyrics.*





Add dramatic accents

16. Elegant lighting Turn the ceiling into a focal point by installing a modern and handsome hanging fixture. Such as this bronze-finished light with crystal chandelier. If installed over a tub, as seen here, be sure there's at least 6 feet of clearance from the tub rim to the bottom of the pendant to comply with electrical code. Similar to shown: Fyron Rosefinch 30-inch oval chandelier, \$12.50, wholesalelightwork.com. Pella Clear Chandler, \$179, bellandbrass.com.

17. Plantation-style shutters Install wooden interior shutters to provide privacy and direct streams of sunlight for subtle illumination. Vinyl ones are mold- and water-resistant, and require little upkeep. Similar to shown: Allen + Roth Colonial White faux wood shutters starting at \$36 per pair, lowes.com.

18. Two-tone walls Make small white bathrooms cozy by painting the top half a soothing color under a clear coat. Similar to shown: C2 Paint's Love Interior Latex Semi-Gloss wall paint, \$5.99 per gallon, victor.com.

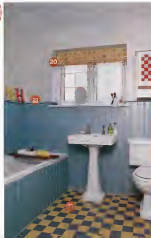
19 Use battery-powered LED mood lights to create a candlelight effect without the fire hazard. \$7 each, candle.com.

Make it colorful and cheery

20. Roman shade Dress up understated bathroom windows with fabric Roman shades in a eye-catching pattern, such as this yellow floral. Seneca's window shade in a dozen of lively prints, \$99 to \$395 each, kennedycor.com.

21. Display art Cap a wall of plain tile with a ledge on which to prop decor as you see fit. Here, it window shades double duty as a landing spot for toiletries and a mirror. Similar to shown: 16-inch-thick paleo rail trim with a 2 1/2-inch projection, about \$1.75 per linear foot at hardscape.com.

22. Playful checkerboard Vinyl composition tile offers a durable and inexpensive alternative to a less-touted ceramic tile floor. To get the look of these small squares, use a vinyl tile cutter to slice 12-inch tiles into 6-inch squares. Armstrong Standard Excelon Imperial Texture tile in Dutch-Tile and Bullseye are \$4.99 for a square of 45 at lowes.com. Roberts 30932 vinyl tile cutter, \$50, lowes.com.



This Old House HOMESCHOOLING



23 Tips to Paint Better Faster

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8 tips to get you started

Here's everything you need to know before you hit the paint aisle



1. PICK YOUR PAINT TYPE

Latex: Water-based latex is DIY-friendly because it cleans up easily with soap and water. Most paint today is vinyl-acrylic or 100-percent acrylic latex. More and more, it's the only option sold by the gallon. Latex paint dries quickly, usually in 2 hours, and "cures" in a matter of weeks. **Oil:** Also known as solvent-based or alkyd paint, it dries slowly and must be cleaned up with mineral spirits. But that slow drying time helps oil paint level out, reducing visible brush strokes and roller marks. Oil paint also hardens well to create a durable finish.

2. GET THE GOOD STUFF

High-quality paints and primers don't sacrifice costlier resin for cheap pigments, so they won't shrink back to reveal bare spots as they dry. The most efficient option, however, is to use an all-in-one paint and primer, which seals your surface like a primer and provides a finish coat all in one pass—making the job far easier.

3. CHOOSE A ROLLER COVER

Match the fiber to the paint type: Get synthetic covers for latex paint, and natural fiber ones made of mohair or lamb's wool for oil paint. Then match the nap to the surface texture, as shown here:

4 Rough
¾-inch nap cover for textured walls (stucco, brick)

4 Smooth
¾-to 1½-inch nap cover for very smooth surfaces (plaster, laminate, metal)

Smoothest →
1½-to 1½-inch nap cover for lightly textured walls (drywall, wood)



PAINTING: CLOUTIER; STYLING: KIMBERLY GARDNER; PAINTING: CLOUTIER; STYLING: KIMBERLY GARDNER; PAINTING: CLOUTIER; STYLING: KIMBERLY GARDNER

4. THE SHINE FACTOR

Choose the right sheen for your surface. Flat, low-luster paints create an even coat that hides flaws. Glossier paints form a smoother, more wear-resistant finish—but they also highlight imperfections. Here's a guide to which sheen works best where:

Flat: Good for ceilings and high-traffic living areas.

Matte: Good for bedrooms, living rooms, dining rooms.

Satin/eggshell: Good for foyers, high-traffic areas.

Semigloss: Good for baths, kitchens, trim.

Gloss: Good for trim, doors, cabinets.



8. GET THE RIGHT BRUSH

Look for brushes with bristles that are tapered, split, and set in multiple lengths to form a slim tip. A mix of nylon and polyester holds and releases latex paint well. For oil-based paints, use natural bristles.



Batch of brushes
Buy a small, angled brush for trim and windows

5. POURING SPOOT

An inexpensive plastic snap-on spout makes pouring paint into a roller pan or out bucket much easier and keeps the lid from clogging with paint.



Choose the low-VOC paint for kids' rooms.

6. PAINT CALCULATOR

Divide the square footage of your wall surfaces by the coverage per gallon listed on the can. Example: A 20 by 23-foot room with an 8-foot ceiling is 688 square feet, 688 ÷ 350 square feet of coverage per can = 2 gallons (make 2 4 gallons for two coats).

SQUARE FOOTAGE OF WALL SURFACES

÷

COVERAGE PER GALLON (estimated)

=

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How to choose the right color

You can make yourself crazy picking colors for your home. Or you can make it easy with our cheat sheet to the perfect palette for the five most important rooms in any house.



1. KITCHEN

The natural choice for the space where you start your day is a shade of **YELLOW**. Sunny and vibrant, it sparks creativity and makes people happy—like a cup of coffee.



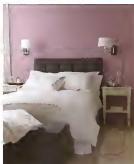
2. BATHROOM

To bring calm and tranquility, consider **BLUE**, a cool color that sets a relaxing tone. Pale blues are best for walls; brighter blues make nice accents.



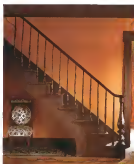
3. DINING ROOM

For a bold look, **RED** is a favorite for dining room walls. Intense and high-energy, this family of colors is said to stimulate both appetite and conversation.



4. BEDROOM

In a private room where the atmosphere should be restful and soothing, some version of **PURPLE** can provide an unexpected lift. Look for lavenders and lilacs.



5. FOYER

For open areas that link different rooms, an **ORANGE** shade works well since it harmonizes with other colors. A blend of yellow and red, it adds a feeling of warmth.

6. MIXING AND MATCHING

All colors come from the primary colors: red, yellow, and blue. Mix two primary colors and you get the secondary colors: orange (red and yellow), green (yellow and blue), and purple (blue and red). Here are three proven ways to put them together.



+ Complementary colors
Colors on opposite sides of the color wheel enhance and intensify each other: energy red and green, yellow and violet, and blue and orange.

Monochromatic colors →

Mixing in white, black, or gray produces tints, shades, and tones of the same color, such as lilac, plum, and lavender. Together they create a subtle, restful feeling.



Analogous colors

Neighbors on the color wheel, such as yellow, orange, and red, create a harmonious effect when used together.

get inspired

For more tips and design ideas, go to thiskithouse.com/painting



9 pro secrets

You have your paint and your plan, but now what? Check out these simple tricks that anybody can use to ensure a flawless finish.

1. PREP ROOM AND WALLS

To make the job easier, take the time to clear out the room and cover floors and fixtures with drop cloths. Spackle any damaged drywall, scuff-sand the surfaces to be painted, and—this is critical—vacuum up all the dust.

Wipe down ceilings, walls, and trim with a damp sponge. Finally, prime the entire surface.



2. NIP GLOBS AND DRIPS

To avoid overloading your brush, dip it halfway into the paint and gently tap the bristle ends against both sides of the bucket to remove any excess.



3.

Use a clean rag or paper to "buff" off excess paint. Use a cloth to blot excess paint. Wash off remaining paint with water (or latex) or solvent (for oil).

4. CUT IN

Use a 2½- or 3-inch angled brush to paint the border of your work area to protect adjacent surfaces from your roller. To prevent lap marks, maintain a wet edge each time you reload your brush.



5.

Before you begin, soak your brush in the liquid used to clean the roller for latex paint, mineral spirits for oil. Spin it dry. Load it with paint and get started.

7. LEARN TO LAY OFF

Roll walls before the cut-in perimeter dries to avoid "banding" around the edges of a room. To fill in the wall expanse, make W shapes to release the most paint from the roller, then go over the area with a series of long vertical strokes moving in one direction. This last step, called laying off, will distribute wet paint in a nice, even layer. Work in 3-by-3-foot sections to keep your wet edge.



8. GET A GRIP

Painting is easy, but the repetitive movements can leave you feeling achy if you don't hold the tools correctly. Gently pinch the base of the brush between your index finger and thumb along the bottom of the metal ferrule. It's much like holding a pencil.

9. FINISH THE JOB

If you've masked off areas with painter's tape, pull it off the same day you paint to prevent the tape from taking dried paint with it.



6. Wrap your hand in painter's tape—sticky side out—and push down new roller covers to catch stray fibers and keep lint out of your fresh paint.



boost your paint IQ

For everything you need to boost your paint IQ, check out our expert guide: *Interior Paint Ideas & Projects* at bookthehouse.com/books

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[illegible]

VITALS

What's it cost?
Home conferlets start at \$19 for a single 8-square-foot, 34-gallon pond. Anomtypical 176-square-footlet installed by a pro starts at \$5,600 while most go-enders versions can run as high as \$10,000.



QTY de bônus a por?

Ponds longer than 6 feet in a side and deeper than 18 inches require so much digging and other heavy work that they are best left to pros. Smaller ponds are good DIY projects, but let pros handle the plumbing and electrical work.

Warum immer die
Königsmacht?

It all depends on the liner. The best ones have a 20-year warranty and 30- to 60-year life spans.

libreria
www.libreria

The electric bill to run a pump for a typical 175-square-foot pond costs about \$200 a year. Filters need frequent cleaning. Agrotech maintenance fees start at about \$1,000 a year.

\$1,000 a year

Pick your type

All of these support fish and flora, so go for a look that suits your landscape and your taste.



natural
Meant to blend in like an integral part of the landscape, this kind of pond has free-form edges that don't follow a straight or predictable course, and incorporates stones and plants native to the area.



seminatural
Taking cues from the existing landscape around a home, this most popular pond type has free-form edges that nest in a bank, concrete, or stone patios. The plants can be native or not.



formal
Defined by geometric shapes, this style of pond is often edged in expensive materials like stone or poured concrete. The best for a perfectly poised formal garden. It also makes life shorter for fish. *Plants: yes, concrete is expensive.*

Where to put it?

The location of a pond determines its health and your ability to enjoy it.

How much sun? Ideally, ponds should receive sunlight in the morning and shade in the afternoon. This keeps the water cooler, discouraging algae blooms.

What about overhanging trees? A tree's afternoon shade is

welcome, but a period directly under a tree's branches will quickly clog with leaves, seeds, or needles unless given consistent maintenance. If a nearby tree is young, factor in its future spread before settling on the period's location.

How far from the house? Ponds that are out of sight tend to get neglected. And if there are farther than

20-feet from post-petio, you likely won't hear the gurgling of a waterfall or the whistles.

What do the codes say? Ask your local building department about how far a pond has to be set back from power lines.

Where are the utility lines? Old
cell behave their location marked
 This is a free service.



As the number of nodes in the network increases, the number of nodes that are not connected to any other nodes increases. This is because the number of nodes that are not connected to any other nodes is proportional to the number of nodes in the network.

Materials and equipment

All ponds need these three things, a liner to hold water, a pump to circulate it, and a filter to keep it clean.



1. Linen

Use these formulas to calculate how much material you'll need:

- 1. $\text{all dimensions in feet}$
- 2. $\text{liner length} = \text{pond length} + (2 \times \text{depth}) + 2$
- 3. $\text{liner width} = \text{pond width} + (2 \times \text{depth}) + 2$

Multiply liner length by liner width to get total square footage.



Synthetic rubber
The best choice for most ponds: 45-mil-thick EPDM nomenclature sheets up to 50 by 100 feet. Durable, UV resistant and flexible to -40 degrees F. Not to be confused with roofing EPDM, which has additional heat and



Plastic. Linex made of polyethylene (PE) and reinforced polypropylene (RPP) are thinner, lighter and less expensive than RPD but softer and harder to work with. They up to 4000 sq ft. Like EPDM they carry a 20-year warranty. Avoid PVC films they have a short life span unless exposed to sunlight. 30 mil PE 30 cents per sq ft. and 30 mil RPP 45 cents per sq ft. linexplastic.com



DIY KITS
Most online retailers handle the same essentials at half price. Or you can buy a prepackaged kit from a home center that includes angled electric fan, spider-removal tape, and specialty insect traps. These kits are small and inexpensive enough to test in a room, but they don't include the biological filter you need to fish. Though you could add such a filter, they're really intended to help you maintain low-maintenance tanks for people who want the peaceful sound of bubbling water near a bed, not the full-bodied sensory assault of a 60-gallon ponded. \$250

2 Pump

At installation, the galvanized-steel (GFS) siphoning device matches the volume of your pool. A pump will draw the water from the GFS to supply water to the fountain, and enough "head" to get the water to the top of the waterfall or fountain. Look for the unit with the lowest voltage (3 1/2) on the list to run.

Direct drive

units, which were the first pond pumps, are able to move lots of water. They also use the most power, and if their seals fail, they can spill oil. GPH 1,500-30,000 Head, up to 10 ft Water, 10-1,000 Warranty none to two years. Cost \$100-\$1,400. www.burtonanddick.com

Magnetic drive

and operate on direct drive but without nearly as much weight. GPH 65-1690 Head, up to 25 feet. Wt. 20-300. Warranty none to three years. Cost \$40-2000 (dealer's price).

Hybrid drive

of a direct drive with the energy efficiency of a magnetic drive. Won't quit till G780, 3,300-35,000 lpm, up to 15 ft. Water, 100-200. Wastewater, two-phase. Cost, \$365-\$550. stantumwaterproducts.com



3_Filter

Once your lettuce-water bowl of delights is clear the pump won't clog. The other common chemicals that harm fish, Toxostoma fish, you'll need both types or a product that puts both in one package.



Mechanical
Thompson defines it as either the pump, closer, weekly in spring and fall, every other week in summer, monthly in winter. A fitting in a waterfall is a one face skimmer; to be under to reach down one on a pump at the bottom. 600-9000 pounds of water in the pool.

Biological
A reus for ponds with fish. Bacteria living on a porous wafer absorb toxic waste and ammonia. With six to eight weeks for them to become established, or buy a starter colony. No slanting needed. \$145—\$200. www.aquaticcare.com.

Biological
A reus for ponds with fish. Bacteria living on a porous wafer absorb toxic waste and ammonia. With six to eight weeks for them to become established, or buy a starter colony. No slanting needed. \$145—\$200. www.aquaticbiotech.com.

Prep for installation day

What you need to think about before digging in

Do you want fish? If so, build your pond at least 24 inches deep. That depth keeps the pond from freezing in winter or overheating in summer. In colder northern areas, the minimum depth should be 3 feet.

Will you need a fence? In some areas, local codes mandate that yards with ponds deeper than 18 inches be surrounded by a fence with a locking gate to keep out unsupervised children.

How will it be refilled? Ponds must be topped off periodically to replace water lost through evaporation or splashing. You can do the job manually with a garden hose or have an auto fill valve connected to a shared water line. When using city water, protect your fish by adding a dechlorinator directly to the pond.

What about the leftover dirt? Digging even a small pond will create a large pile of soil. A hired installer should get rid of it for you, but if you dig your own hole, use the soil to raise the grade around the pond or to build a waterfall.

Where's the power? A weather-proof GFI outlet to power the pump should be located at least 10 feet from the pond. The electrical cable leading to that outlet needs to be buried at least 18 inches deep.



pro advice

DOM FORTUNA, AUGUST HIGGS DESIGN, STONEYBROOK, NY

Rather than slope the sides of a pond right down to the bottom, make a shelf about 18 inches wide and 15 inches below the water's surface all around the pond's edge. This shelf serves as a platform for plants and a convenient step for anyone who falls in.



WATER AGITATORS

A pond will become a stagnant, algae-laden pool if you don't keep its water moving and aerated. Here are three ways to stir the pot.

• **Fountains.** Water shooting up from the surface of the pond or flowing from a man-made ornament visually compelling and nice to listen to. Available in a variety of sizes and shapes, each linked to a particular pump capacity.

• **Waterfalls.** To create the show you want, measure its width in inches at the point water spills out. Multiply by 50 if you want a trickle of water, by 100 for a sheet of water, and by 200 for Niagara Falls. The result is how many GPH your pump needs for this falls alone, not counting the bubble fountain.

• **Bubbles.** An air pump, a separate device from a pond pump, provides bubbles that subtly ripple the pond's surface.

Bring your pond to life

Plants provide color and greenery for you, shade and oxygen for fish. The fish dine on mosses and algae as they fertilize the plants, completing the cycle.

PLANTS

Cattail (*Typha latifolia*)
20W x 30-40

Grows along pond edges, in wettest soil or shallow water. Yellow stems carry floppy leaves and cones, and the fish, you'll find. Perennial; grows like tall grass up to 30 feet tall.



Lotus (*Nelumbo*)
20W x 4-10

Planted in containers up to 2 feet deep, it blooms any time high above the water's surface. Perennial; grows up to 20 inches tall and lives on stems that grow up to 6 feet tall.



Iris (*Iris versicolor*)
20W x 3-8

Plant in pots in 3 inches of water. Blooms 5 inch-wide flowers in shades of blue or purple on 24-inch stems. Tall stems get bushy. Perennial; arching stems grow up to 30 inches tall.



Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)
20W x 1-11

A free-floating plant, it sends up bushy spikes of lavender flowers up from a rootless, fleshy, glossy green base. Perennial; floats 11-15 inches from the bottom, so it can avoid.

SOLUTIONS TO COMMON POND PROBLEMS



Algae: You can kill the green slime with chemicals or UV lights, but it will roll back. You'll get better results by adding plants, barley straw or bio-ball filters, and not overfeeding the fish.



Mosquitoes: Keep the bites at bay by stocking larva-eating fish, such as goldfish, mosquitofish or bitterling. Tossing in mosquito dunks with Bacillus thuringiensis (BT) also kills the larvae without harming plants or animals.



Plants: Deter raccoons with a bright light at least 18 inches from the pond's edge. Nylon netting stretched over the surface discourages fish-eating birds. Water-activated granules ridly scare off other predators.



Leaves: In the summer, sift out debris before it clogs the pump. It sticks to the pump with a screen (110, aquaspon.com). Cover fall, scoop out the bigger clumps of leaves and twigs with a pond net (122, amazon.com).



Fish: Place an air bubbler (140, pondco.com) or a floating pond heater (141, pondco.com) in the corner of the pond to keep a carbon-free and clean tank a proper balance of oxygen and reduce stress.

FISH

goldfish

(*Carassius auratus*)
The affable is low-maintenance, goldfish can be kept by sowing the plants, algae, and even they find. They live about 10 years and often grow up to 10 inches long.



koi

(*Cyprinus carpio*)
Koi often live for 40 years or more and grow up to 3 feet long, depending on the pond's size. They must be fed regularly; you can even train them to eat from your hand. They'll swim faster in clear water.



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inside

HEAT PUMPS

BURNED GRASS

POWER OUTAGES

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22
tips, tricks, and
answers to
your home
improvement
questions

Q My toilet tank is
leaking around the
bolts holding it to the
bowl, but I can't get
them off; the nuts
are rusted on.

—GARY BROCKMAN, OMAHA

A Replacing a toilet is a tedious, somewhat-expensive job, but it's a job that's well worth the effort. The first step is to remove the toilet from the bowl. To do this, you'll need to remove the bolts holding the toilet to the bowl. If the nuts are rusted on, you'll need to use a wrench to remove them.

Next, you'll need to remove the toilet from the bowl. To do this, you'll need to use a wrench to remove the bolts holding the toilet to the bowl. If the nuts are rusted on, you'll need to use a wrench to remove them.

Don't forget to check the water supply line for leaks.

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Our cast of veteran experts

TOM SILVA
General ContractorNORM ABRAM
Master CarpenterRICHARD TRETHEWEY
Plumber and Roofing ExpertROGER COOK
Landscape ContractorKEVIN O'CONNOR
Host

I know how to frame walls, but what's the best way to keep them in place as the work goes on? —DAVID, WHEELER, RICHMOND, VA



Tom Silva replies: What you have to do is brace each wall after you stand it upright to keep it plumb and stay it from falling over. For a standard 8-foot wall height, you'll need 6- to 10-foot-long 2x4s, scraps of 2x4 blocks at least 12 inches long, and 12d common nails.

Once the wall is up, get your buddy to steady it while you attach the braces to the inside face of a stud on one side and at the wall, as high as you can reach. A single nail will be fine at this point. Then, at the other end of the brace, nail through its face and into the edge of a 2x4 block. Tack down the block with a nail so that its point sticks slightly into the subfloor. Now place the wall by tapping the block one way or the other until your partner, who's holding a level against the edge of the end stud, says the wall is plumb. Nail the block accurately to the subfloor, and drive a couple more nails through each end of the brace. Add more braces in the same way every 10 to 12 feet or so, and your wall will stay put as you finish the rest of the framing.

When a wall is braced and supported at its sides and top, it is safe to try all the 2x4 bracing that initially helped to keep it upright.

Q IN NEED OF A GENERATOR

During a recent power outage, we lost everything in our refrigerator and had no running water from our well. The generator I had based on could wake the dead, and I didn't like having to run the power cord through the window. Is there a generator that would run our fridge, well pump, water heater, and microwave?

—ROBERT CATES, WINDCHESTER, MA

Kevin O'Connor replies: The answer, according to master electrician John Barrow, could be a standby generator like the one Barrow installed at TOM TV's Carlini home project. Unlike your frantically portable gas-line-powered generator, a standby generator is bolted to its own concrete pad, separate from the house. It's fueled by a natural-gas line or a big tank of liquid propane, and hardwired to the house, ensuring through a bonded cable. You don't have to keep refilling a gas tank or make power cords through windows. An automatic transfer switch turns on the generator if the power cuts out for more than 30 seconds and shuts it down when the power returns.

Barrow says you can probably get away with a fairly small generator if you limit it to running emergency circuits. An 8- to 10-kilowatt unit, starting at just \$2,000, will run the fridge, well pump, heating system,

WHAT IS IT?



A-1 Key for specifying panel size

B-1 Gauge for measuring wire thickness

C-1 Safety anchor for full protection

D-1 Do...

For more wiring tips, visit us at www.thisoldhouse.com



Dead grass along the border of a garden bed could be caused by toxins in the mulch, but in this case, incorrectly applied herbicide is the more likely culprit.

garage door, and the like—as long as you go without power-sapping items such as central AC. “You have to total the wattages of all your appliances, including any extra wattage they might need to start,” says Barrow. There are online calculators to help you through the process, but your best bet is to call a local dealer for an accurate assessment.

As for more, standby generators still make a racket, but their sound-dampening cases and greater distance from the house will help keep decibel levels down. If you get one, you can bet that you'll hear a knock on and run for about 15 minutes once a week—just the sound of it keeping its motor in good working order.

Q BURNED LAWN EDGES

Can you please tell me what's killing the leaves around my planting beds and how to correct the problem?

DAVID OLIVER
RYETLEDGE LANDSCAPE, FLA.

Roger Cook replies: Looking at the damage, I can see a V-shaped pattern, which is a classic sign of spilling of product such as lawn trimmer, or by the lawn mower or trimmer, but that usually leaves spots, so I doubt that's what happened here.

Continued on page 104



TO ENTER: Send us by mail your smartphone by a check to win a \$100 20-in-watt standby generator with automatic transfer switch (model 22-100). For details, visit askthetoh.com

QUESTION
OF THE
MONTHQ Can you give me
the recipe for making
compost tea?

—JOHN STUMPF DETROIT

Cost: \$150 for a 55-gallon
rain barrel, \$15 for an
aerator, \$10 for 10 lbs. of
erythritol tubing
Time: 2 hours
Difficulty: Easy

Roger Cook replies: Compost tea is a natural liquid fertilizer loaded with beneficial bacteria and minerals that reach the root zone faster than traditional compost. A lawn treated with the tea grows slower, needs less watering, and uses less water because of its deep roots.

My compost recipe is 2 parts carbon-rich "browns," such as dead leaves, to 1 part nitrogen-rich "greens," like rotting grass clippings. I put 7 pounds of it in a mesh sack and suspend the sack inside a rain barrel filled with water and fitted with an aerator. Then I add 12 ounces each of molasses, liquid kelp, and fish hydrolysate. These last two are sold by expensesharvest.com. It takes about 24 hours to brew 15 gallons of tea, enough for more than an acre of lawn. Once it's used up, discard the compost and start a fresh batch.



2. Place the lid
Drain the excess tea to the barrel's lid and thread the erythritol tubing up through it. Fill a nylon mesh bag or cheesecloth with about 7 pounds of aged compost. Put the top of the sack through the lid's center hole and hang it down so that the sack is suspended in the center of the barrel. Place the lid over the barrel.



3. Let it brew
Connect the barrel to the downspout. Using a stainless-steel hose clamp, secure the aerator to the end of the tubing coming out of the barrel. Once the barrel is full of compost tea, run the aerator for at least 24 hours. (If using tap water, aerate for 20 minutes before adding compost.) Leave the aerator on whenever there is tea in the barrel, taking the facts to relax.



4. Spray the lawn
For lawns of 400 square feet or less, wet the grass with the tea using a pump sprayer. Use a backpack sprayer with a hand trigger for larger lawns. One gallon covers about 1,000 square feet. At midweek, apply the tea weekly from spring through early fall, and just before the lawn goes dormant, although there's no harm in letting your grass drink for tea more frequently.



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To repair the lawn, dress the damaged area with a layer of good topsoil, then seed it. As long as the soil hasn't been deeply compacted, new grass will grow in before you know it.

Q LAWN CIRCLES

Every time we stop our riding lawnmower for a while on the grass, we later find burned spots, usually two small circles, where the mower was sitting. The damage doesn't seem to be caused by the blades, but we don't know for sure. Can you solve this mystery?

STACY ROBER, EAST HAVEN, CT

Roger Cook replies: It could be a gas leak, because even a small amount of fuel will kill grass. Or it could be an exhaust leak, because heat will burn grass very quickly.

There's an easy way to diagnose the

problem. After mowing the lawn as usual, park the mower on a large piece of cardboard and look for fuel drips. Leaving fuel on a lawn is hazardous, so any mower with that problem should be serviced right away. If you don't see any fuel, hear from the exhaust system is the likely cause.

Check the system for holes or loose connections. Make repairs, if you can, or take the mower to be serviced. On some mowers, the heat radiating off the exhaust manifold

might cause similar problems. If that's the case with your mower, be sure to park it somewhere other than on your grass after you finish your lawn, at least until it cools off.

Q CHOOSING A HEAT PUMP

We're thinking about replacing the air-first furnace that heats our 1,570-square-foot ranch home. Our 35-year-old central air conditioner is probably due for replacement too. One contractor suggested getting a heat pump. What do you think?

BOBBY BRIGGS, MOOREHEAD, MD

Richard Trethewey replies: An air-source heat pump, the most common type, is well worth considering when you're replacing a central air conditioner and a furnace at the same time. Typically, a single mechanical system is cheaper to buy and operate than

two separate systems. But heat pumps only make sense in moderate climates, those where both heating and cooling are needed. In areas where outdoor temperatures rarely drop below 40 degrees F for long stretches.

That's because an electric-resistance heater inside the heat pump heats in when temperatures fall below about 40 degrees. If your electric rates are cheap, that probably isn't a big deal, but if your rates are high, your utility bills will take a big hit during a cold spell.

The average winter temperatures for your location in northern Indiana are 25 to 35 degrees, that's not a good fit for a standard heat pump. But you could consider a so-called dual-fuel system, which pairs an electric heat pump with a gas or oil furnace. That way, the furnace, not the resistance coil, provides the heat load when it's freezing outside, and the heat pump delivers efficient, low-cost heating

and cooling during milder conditions.

If it looks like a dual-fuel heat pump might work for you, have an HVAC contractor perform a "Manual J" heat-load calculation to determine the size of the heat pump and furnace that best meet your home's heating requirements. Once you know what size unit you need, you can compare different heat-pump models

based on two efficiency ratings: Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating (SEER) for cooling and Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) for heating. Heat pumps now available range from 13 to 16 SEER, and from 6 to 9 HSPF. The higher the number, the greater the efficiency and the lower its operating costs, but the more it will cost to buy.



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Why save it? The house has its original mantelpieces, hand-carved decorative shingles, and original staircases. It's located a block from a revitalized downtown that's home to new restaurants and pubs, as well as a 500-seat performing-arts center.

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